AUTONOMOUS ZONE ★ PFA

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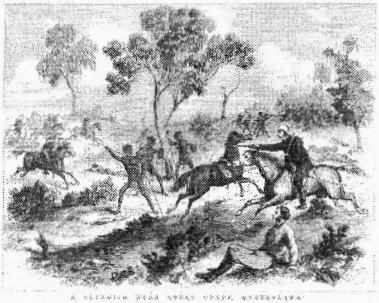
DON'T MENTION THE WAR!

No, we're not talking about 'upsetting' Germans about their Nazi history, but about Australia's first conflict – the real *founding war of the Australian "nation":*

– *The Frontier War.*

Look up "frontier war" on the internet and you'll find out that even conservative historians say that colonial settlers, state authorities and Australian governments carried out a *war* on indigenous people that lasted until the 1930s at least. And indigenous people defended *their country* heroically in the face of a brutal invasion. So, before anybody starts talking about the 'Anzac tradition', let's remember the first war that "defined the nation" -- and its racist legacy.



The government had no doubt that this was war. In 1816, New South Wales armed forces were ordered, *"On any occasion of falling in with the Natives... they are to be called on... to surrender themselves to you as Prisoners of War. If they refuse to do so, make the least show of resistance, or attempt to run away from you, you will fire upon and compel them to surrender... Such Natives as happen to be killed on such occasions, if grown up men, are to be hanged up on Trees in Conspicuous Situations, to Strike the Survivors with the greater terror"* (Governor Macquarie, quoted by Daley, P. in *The Guardian*, "Why does the Australian War Memorial ignore the frontier war?", 12/09/2013). These days, this is called "counter-insurgency".

This was war by *occupation forces* against genuine *freedom fighters*. Similar tactics were used by the death squads of the United States' military against indigenous defenders there. Simply, it's called mass murder and Australian civilians joined in enthusiastically. To rightly condemn the war and genocide in Europe committed by Nazis, whilst ignoring identical history and policies here, is a blatant tacit justification of this Australian crime against humanity.

When speaking of his "*Lebensraum*" policy, in comparison to US colonialism, Hitler stated it clearly:

"...in the East a similar process will repeat itself for a second time as in the conquest of America." As Hitler imagined the future, Germany would deal with the Slavs as the North Americans had dealt with the Indians. "The Volga River", he once proclaimed, "will be Germany's Mississippi". (Snyder, T., *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin*, Basic Books, NY, 2010, p. 160)

Australia's *Frontier War* had the same aims and methods as in North America by the US, and Eastern Europe by the Nazis.

This war, and its continuation in Australian policy today, must be understood.

THE GENOCIDE MUST END NOW! STOP THE FORCED CLOSURE OF ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES!

WHAT EXACTLY IS BEING COMMEMORATED HERE?

Most people already know that World War I was a horrific slaughter and that the Gallipoli expedition was an exceptionally stupid futile abortion. So, since it's the 100th anniversary of this episode of mass murder of the cannon fodder of the British and Ottoman empires; it seems apt to remind ourselves of what it was *really* about.

Of course, government propagandists, 'educators', nationalists and patriots, and all other kinds of today's jingoists dominate with their form of 'commemoration'. This is exemplified by the words of former Liberal Führer John Howard.

These men and women... have given us a legacy from the past on which to build the future... A spirit born on the cliffs of Gallipoli... A spirit which draws Australians together in time of need... (Führer's Speech at the Australian War Memorial, 11/11/1997)

Sound familiar? "One people, one nation, formed through blood and iron!" *Sieg heil!*

Opposite to this kind of rubbish that led to the "King and Country" mental infection spread among the slaughtered of 1915 (and that today's authorities and profiteers want to maintain), there was (and is) a different reality. That is what we *need* to remember.

If we want to commemorate, or preserve in our memory, the 'fallen', then first we must remember that there was no unified 'nation' fighting as a single body – but it was collectively *all the warring states* that were involved (on all sides) that were unified through their blood-thirsty war. So, there were the perpetrators, the profiteers and states, and their victims, the oppressed people of all countries.

For example, in Australia, a poster said, "*To Arms Capitalists, Parsons, Politicians, Landlords, Newspaper editors and other stay-at-home patriots, your country needs YOU in the trenches! Workers follow your masters!*" That is, let the rich and powerful do their own dying first! (The *Wobblies*, or International Workers of the World (IWW), 1916) The printer of this poster was imprisoned for six months.

Let us remember then that it was a war by oppressors, for oppressors. Thus, in London in 1915 a "Manifesto on the War" was published, stating:

To all the soldiers of all countries who believe they are fighting for justice and liberty, we have to declare that their heroism and valour will but serve to perpetuate hatred, tyranny and misery.

...it is necessary to remember that the rifles they now have in their hands have been used against them... and later on they will be again used against them to compel them to undergo and endure capitalist exploitation. (International Anarchist Movement, London, 1915)

In the context of massive armaments profits and the immoral outrages of states and their generals at places like Gallipoli; the sad (and misguided) letters of the doomed youth in the trenches take on a very different meaning. Despite any individual heroism (just as was probably also shown by Genghis Khan's horsemen), in the name of (any) "nation", no matter which flag they followed, soldiers (willing, or not) *suffered* and *inflicted* this slaughter on their brothers.

Let us remember ***that***!

It is in periods thus troubled, in which many thousands of men heroically give their lives for an idea, that we must show these men the generosity, greatness and beauty of the Anarchist ideal: Social justice realised through free organisation of producers... and complete freedom won, by the abolition of the State and its organs of destruction. (International Anarchist Movement, 1915)

GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY?

This is the second issue of *Autonomous Zone* and there'll be more to come. So if you feel the same way and there's something that you want to say, then send us your comments or contributions to:

pfa@riseup.net

We aim to help facilitate the establishment of a federation of free associations, founded on these basic principles:

- *Abolition of all forms of authority, regardless of whether economic, political, social, religious, cultural, sexual, and so on; and*
- *Building a free society, without classes and states or borders, founded on free federation, mutual aid and solidarity*
- *From each according to their ability, to each according to their needs*

. . . S O S . . .

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. . . - - - . . . We' re in trouble . . . - - - . . . It' s too much . . . - - - . . .
Tanks, planes, rockets and such

RATTATATAT - Hey, enough of that! **RATTATATAT**
Get some sanity back!
RATTATATAT - All this woe and trouble - **RATTATATAT**

BOOM! Shell shocked **BOOM!**
Post-traumatic stress disorder
BOOM! War neurosis from murder **BOOM!**

Let' s blow this scene! This path to a desert dune
Give us some room to zoom away from doom.
A broad brushed broom sweepin' away napalm fumes.
Man, croon a bloom of a new tune. Away! Empathetic doom!

It' s not just the military, but also the auxiliary;
The trials of this life, down to our wage earning capilliaries,
Making this disaster of human humility;
People! Liberty is the antidote to this oppression, exploitation - futility.

BOOM! Blow up this system
RATTATATAT! of machine gun suppression!
. . . - - - . . . end this strife . . . - - - . . .

-.-.--.- Hello! CQ -.-.--. We' re not just a few -.-.--.-
to stop this trouble and start anew
-.-.--.- CQ a new life